

Shaver, J. M. Tombaugh, J. I. Hall, P. W. Wisman, G. A. Copp, Sister Laura Hedrick, and J. Long, and while it is to be regretted that many ministers failed to report, the seven reports submitted showed a healthy increase and commendable progress. In this connection the report of the Rappahanock mission was made showing a very encouraging result thru the untiring efforts of brother S. P. Fogle. Report of Woman's Work was then made by Sister Hedrick. Number of societies represented, four. Number of members in same, 106. Number of meetings, 34. Amount collected, \$95 51. Amount paid out, \$69 35. Balance on hand, \$26.16.

## SESSION III

First topic under consideration, "How Much Should a Christian Give?" Discussion opened by W. M. Lyon, followed by E. B. Shaver and S. P. Fogle, in which were some very able and interesting thoughts brought forth. On motion officers on mission were then appointed; the old board was re-appointed, S. P. Fogle, Jno. E. Copp, J. W. Hockman.

## SESSION IV

Usual devotional exercise by J. I. Hall. First topic, "Our Missions, Are They a Success? If not, why not?" was introduced by P. W. Wiseman and J. M. Tombaugh, followed by W. M. Lyon, R. I. Garber, J. W. Leedy, E. B. Shaver and J. I. Hall. Some interesting and encouraging thoughts were brought forth.

E. B. Shaver introduced a motion at this period to this effect. Resolved, that in the future district conference the congregations represented by delegates shall be asked to pay 50 cents for each delegate elected: which fund shall be used to defray the expenses of conference and the remainder, if any, to be used toward the ministerial educational fund. Motion adopted.

Second topic, Unity Church Doctrine and how to obtain it. First speaker, J. W. Leedy followed by W. M. Lyon, E. B. Shaver, J. I. Hall. Some profitable thoughts were brought forth for consideration.

## SESSION V

Opened by song service and prayer by Elder Shaver.

On motion by J. I. Hall a committee was appointed to investigate the difference between the Dayton and Bethlehem churches. The following committee was then appointed. P. W. Wisman, J. W. Leedy, T. J. Fahrney, Jno. E. Copp and S. A. Wise.

The last topic on program was introduced under the head of miscellaneous business. The committee on resolutions submitted the following report:

Since the goodness of our heavenly Father seemed to see no hindrance in the way of the executive committee for the meeting of the Brethren churches of Virginia and Maryland in conference at Bethlehem, near Harrisonburg, Va., be it resolved:

1. That by our association in conference we not only feel, but most positively know that God's gracious spirit has wonderfully

strengthened us for which we sincerely thank him.

2. That this conference tender its thanks to the neighborhood for its willingness to entertain.

3. That this conference most deeply and sincerely regrets the absence of Brother G. A. Copp and its cause, and that we extend to him our sympathy in his affliction, and the assurance of our most hearty prayers for his restoration to health.

4. That we thank our moderator for his fair and impartial rulings and our secretary for his faithfulness to duty.

5. That this conference especially thank Prof. and Brother J. I. Hall for their spiritual and edifying music.

LAURA HEDRICK,  
W. M. LYON.

Standing committees for next conference to be held at St. James, Md., Executive committee: Pastor in charge, T. J. Fahrney, H. Cross; Parochial, S. P. Fogle.

Womans work, Mrs H. Cross; educational work, J. M. Tombaugh.

The committee appointed to investigate the difference between the Bethlehem, Dayton and Mt. Olive churches report. After testimony and considering same, we the committee ratify the agreement between the Bethlehem and Dayton churches as published in the EVANGELIST of Dec. 4, 1895, and also later agreement. Signed,

P. W. WISMAN, chair.,  
J. W. LEEDY, Sec.,  
S. A. WISE,  
JNO. E. COPP,  
T. J. FAHRNEY.

After this the business of conference adjourned to meet, if the most gracious Lord is willing, at St. James next year.

H. L. ROSENBERGER, Recording Sec.

## A Christian Burial Service

Arthur T. Pierson, in New York Observer.

Wednesday, August 23, will be a memorable day to all who, at Northfield, gathered on that morning on the broad lawn in front of Mr. Moody's house. The occasion was the informal service in connection with the death of little Irene, the charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Moody, and grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Moody, and Major and Mrs. D. W. Whittle.

This fascinating little girl of four years had a wonderful hold on all who knew her. Bright and beautiful, with a singular maturity of mind and peculiar wealth of affection, she had for more than five months been, day and night, the centre of household anxiety and devotion. A mysterious germ of disease in some way had found entrance into her little body, and notwithstanding the combined skill of physicians and specialists, on the Pacific coast, at Saranac, Northfield, and elsewhere, the fatal tuberculosis had gone on working its awful destruction until she died by a low suffocation early on Tuesday, August 22, as the day was dawning.

The thought at once struck the mind of Mr. Moody to have this unique burial ser-

vice in the open air, in God's own cathedral, with its azure firmament for a roof, the golden sun for its illumining lamp, the massive trees for its columns, the green sward for its carpeted floor, and the birds for its choir. The whole scene reminded us of the Twenty-ninth Psalm, that lyric of Nature's Temple, in which we are told that, in this cathedral of God, everything shouts "Glory to God."

A bier of flowers was set in front of the porch for the reception of the pure white casket, holding Irene's body. Dr. R. A. Torrey conducted the service, and the male quartette of Mt. Hermon and the seminary ladies conducted the service of song. H. B. Silliman and the Rev. Dr. H. C. Mabie led in prayers of singular sympathy and appropriateness, and Dr. Torrey, the Rev. G. Campbell Morgan, of London, the main speaker at the recent conferences, and the writer made brief addresses, no two of which covered the same ground. Without any previous consultation, these speakers followed lines of remark which were so different, yet so harmonious, that they might have been parts of one address from the same speaker.

Altho the hearts of the family are nearly broken with the anguish of bereavement, and the young father and mother are now childless, this being the second death within a year, and altho the many intimate friends of Mr. Moody were so deeply afflicted in their sympathy with him and his household, and in their own love for Irene, the tone of the whole service was not despondent, but jubilant and triumphant.

Dr. Torrey led the way in the reading of about twenty consolatory passages of Scripture, selected with unusual taste and judgment, and then briefly presented Christ as the Lord of Life and the Abolisher of death. He showed the Scripture teaching as to the new relation which the child of God bears to death and the life beyond, in Christ, and how, that "out of home" as to the body is to be instantly "at home" with the Lord. He adverted to the fact that while the death of the unbeliever is hopeless, and without relief in the prospect, the believer does not, in any proper sense, die, but breathes out the spirit into the bosom of God, leaving the body to the grave, to awake at the coming of the Lord, in the image of His own perfection. He dwelt fervently upon the fact that Christ hath abolished death, bringing to light life and immortality, so that the two worlds are made near, brought into contact, and the transition is immediate, and the glory of the Eternal floods and transforms the gloom of the temporal sorrow, suffering and loss.

The writer followed, dwelling for a few moments upon two passages of the Inspired Word: Isaiah 61:3, and John 14:3. In the former we have the last of the seven offices prophesied of the coming Messiah, the mission of comfort to those who mourn. He makes three exchanges; he sets on their heads his own "tiara" of beauty in the place of the "ashes" of despair; He gives the anointing oil of His joy in place of bitter tears of mourning; and puts on us the gar-